

2012 PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL RETREAT

DESIGN and CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

Division Manager: Jody Martinez

Issue # 1 – Victoria Park: Parks and Recreation, in partnership with PED and the Capital Regions Watershed District, has been implementing a soil and storm water remediation plan on the Koch Mobile site to prepare it for a new community park with athletic fields.

- Positive impacts: This new park space will serve the community very well and provide much needed green space and athletic field space which is noted as a primary need in our park System Plan. We are currently receiving free fill via the Central Corridor project saving the project three million dollars!
- Negative impacts: Some in the community are opposed to the athletic fields.
- Recommendation: Work with a community task force and Parks staff to develop an approved plan for the park.
- *Commission Assistance: Chair the task force and review/ recommend approval of the final plan.*

Issue # 2 – Central Corridor new park sites: The City has developed an extensive long range vision to incorporate new park sites near every one of the station stops along the new light rail corridor on University Avenue. A plan for funding acquisition and park development has not yet been developed and is needed.

- Positive impacts: as newer higher density housing starts to develop near the line, new park space will be in high demand and needed more than ever.
- Negative impacts: Funding to renovate or develop existing parkland is limited so these additional new park property sites will add to Park Department funding and timeline issues.
- Recommendation: Develop an acquisition and funding plan as part of the system-wide facilities plan currently underway with consultants.
- *Commission Assistance: Review final recommendations made by staff.*

Issue # 3 - Great River Passage Master Plan: The plan has just been completed and the year long approval process to adopt it as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan is currently underway.

- Positive impacts: The plan recommends that a new Division, created within the Parks and Recreation Department, be created to manage this new 17 mile system. (the position is funded for 2013) In addition, implementation of the master plan recommendations for 17 miles of riverfront is instrumental in managing the parklands to a high level of care and developing new revenue sources.
- Negative impacts: Controversial topics and issues will be addressed. (Dog parks, acquisition, passive vs. active development).
- Recommendations: Review and support Master Plan recommendations.
- *Commission Assistance: to host a public hearing for plan approval and participate in com. meetings.*

Issue # 4 - Parkland and Parkway diversions, encroachments and acquisition issues continue to arise. Development of a management approach is needed and is underway.

- Positive impacts: Implementation of a process to effectively and proactively deal with all existing and future parkland/parkway use, diversions/encroachments and acquisition is needed.
- Negative impacts: Potential contentious property encroachment issues will need to be addressed and will involve real estate professionals, City Attorney and others. Most difficult issues are located on some of our more prominent parkways such as Mississippi River Boulevard and Lexington Parkway.
- Recommendations: Define process, assign staff and work with various City departments including Public Works, Department of Safety and Inspections, Real Estate and City Attorney to determine a fair and defensible process and enforcement procedure.
- *Commission Assistance: Review issues as they are presented and recommend approval of process developed.*

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Design Section has accomplished well all of its core functions; administration, planning, design, and construction. The following represents selected accomplishments in 2011:

- 1) Highland and Como Pool project completed.
- 2) Great River Passage community process and plan completed.
- 3) Jimmy Lee Athletic Field
- 4) Lilydale Mitigation & Roadway/Picnic shelter design process with community and engineering underway for 2012 completion.
- 5) Complete construction of Harriet Island Nature Play area
- 6) Complete construction of Baker, Hancock, Eileen Weida, and Holly Play areas.
- 7) Design and community process for Como, Conway and Burns play areas underway for 2012 construction.
- 8) Construction underway of Am Vets Memorial
- 9) Design Center Re-Organization underway
- 10) Phalen and Indian Mounds Master Plans ; community process completed and approved at Met Council
- 11) Long planned river edge Rip Rap project completed
- 12) Two Legacy projects, Crosby Parking lot and Como Lilypond-nearly done.
- 13) In addition the very time consuming 2012/13 CIB process and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space 2012-2017 CIP program was created, managed and submitted.
- 14) Cherokee Trail plan, a multi million dollar trail connection is completed for January 2012 bidding.
- 15) Legislative materials were prepared and presentations given to legislators for the Watergate Marina, the first project to come forward from the Great River Passage plan.

Department of Parks and Recreation
Section: Design and Construction
Jody Martinez, Manager- December 2011

2012 Strategic Plan Items:

- 1) Complete construction of Furness Parkway Extension
- 2) Complete construction of Harriet Island Am Vets Plaza
- 3) Complete construction of City House sprinklers and restrooms
- 4) Complete construction of Raspberry Island Fountain
- 5) Complete construction of phase I Cherokee Trail
- 6) Complete Great River Passage plan approval process
- 7) Complete master plan of the Harriet Island to South St. Paul Trail
- 8) Complete construction of Como, Conway and Burns play areas
- 9) Complete phased design and community design process for Pedro/Fitzgerald Park
- 10) Complete construction of Jimmy Lee Restroom Project
- 11) Continue to implement phases of the Trillium Sanctuary Master Plan
- 12) Bruce Vento interpretive center property acquisition
- 13) Begin the design process for a phased Grand Rounds plan
- 14) Complete construction of the Como Lilypond
- 15) Complete Palace Community Center design/engineering process
- 16) Complete construction of By-Way kiosks
- 17) Engage community in a design process for Victoria Park & work with CRWD
- 18) Complete construction of Lilydale Entrance monument
- 19) Complete design, engineering, construction of Lilydale Road
- 20) Complete CD's for Pedestrian Bridge/Tunnel between Bruce Vento & Sam Morgan Trails
- 21) Complete Restoration of Historic Como Park Excedra and Waterfall
- 22) Work with Real Estate to identify site and funding for a Greater Eastside Main.Facility
- 23) Construct Harriet Island Parking lot (behind Levee) See #24 below
- 24) Harriet Island Acquisition- determine next steps- affects parking lot project above
- 25) Complete Phalen Regional Park Channel Restoration and Splash Pad design and begin construction
- 26) Complete phased design/eng. of Payne Maryland & begin construction
- 27) Determine fate of Como Historic Pedestrian Bridge and if approved, implement plans
- 28) Complete design and begin construction of Legacy grants: Phalen Waterfall, Cherokee, Lilydale
- 29) Design Front Skate Park, MLK, Webster, Stinson, Indian Mounds, & Griggs play areas
- 30) Begin discussions for Como Golf Course Re-use- Master plan amendment required
- 31) Determine plan for Central Corridor park acquisitions- part of new Design Center work
- 32) Develop succession plan/strategies
- 33) Prepare a Como Storm Water Master plan in collaboration with others- unfunded
- 34) Prepare a city-wide Public Art Plan in collaboration with others- in process
- 35) Work with others to develop new Great River Passage Division strategy
- 36) Work with community on a plan for Frogtown Farms
- 37) Como Regional Park Signage Plan and install Como Security cameras
- 38) Marydale Parking lot and Crosby West Parking lot as part of Cap. Maintenance
- 39) Swede Hollow Stream improvements project
- 40) Design Center Projects: Ford site, Shepard Road, Westside flats plan, others

2013-16 Strategic Plan Items

- 1) Palace Community Center, Grand Rounds, Lilydale Road, and Trillium- construction
- 2) Determine funding, develop and implement a city-wide Park System signage/wayfinding plan
- 3) Continue design and construction of Annual Programs: four tennis/ BB courts, and play areas per year as per our asset management ranked lists.
- 4) Harriet Island to South St. Paul trail construction
- 5) Hidden Falls Regional Park Master Plan and Meeker Island Dog Park redevelopment
- 6) Lower Landing Park Improvements: design and implement